

REMARKS

The above amendments and the following information are for entry in the above-identified continuation application.

SPECIFICATION/ABSTRACT AMENDMENTS

The disclosure has been amended to identify the parent application upon which benefit is claimed in the present continuation under §120, as well as to enter the corrections to the specification which were submitted/approved in the prior application, *e.g.*, Formulae 1-3. The Abstract has been amended to incorporate the corrections submitted and approved in the prior application. None of the changes made contain new matter, and approval and entry of the amendments are respectfully requested.

PENDING CLAIMS

Original Claims 1-12 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter, and new Claims 13-23 are presented for consideration and examination in the present continuation application.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was

valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY UNDER §§119 AND 120

The present continuation has been amended to identify the parent application upon which Applicant claims benefit under 35 USC §120. Acknowledgment of the completion of requirements under §120 is respectfully requested.

Applicant claims priority of JP 2001-148602 filed 18 May 2001, the certified copy of which was filed 20 September 2001 in parent Application No. 09/935,164, upon which benefit is claimed in the present continuation under §120.

Acknowledgment of completion of requirements under 35 USC §119 (and 37 CFR §1.55) is respectfully requested.

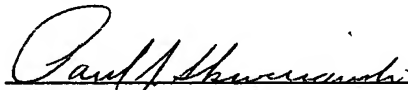
ASSIGNEE OF ENTIRE INTEREST

HITACHI, LTD. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present continuation application by virtue of the Assignment filed in parent Application No. 09/935,164, upon which benefit under §120 is claimed, and recorded 18 January 2002 at Reel 012494, Frames 0450 *et seq.*

CONCLUSION

This Preliminary Amendment is being timely submitted with the present continuation application, and a Form PTO-2038 authorizing payment of additional fees is being filed concurrently herewith. Please charge any actual and appropriate shortage in the fees for entry of this paper to ATSK Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (as Case No. 500.40553CX1).

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Skwierawski
Registration No. 32,173
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP
1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3801, USA
Telephone 703-312-6600
Facsimile 703-312-6666